Safety of Tarapur atomic power plant in Maharashtra

3575. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the atomic reactor at Tarapur in Maharashtra is functioning beyond the 'safe age period' as per the report from International Commission for Reactor Protection and Dr. Johan Walker an expert from M/s. Best Cell Company of U.S.A.;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken preventive measures in the surrounding areas to prevent loss of life;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to storage of radio active waste in drums, the area around the Tarapur Plant is affecting the environment and human health; and

(d) if so, the details of the remedial safety measures taken / proposed . to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The safety of the Atomic reactors in India is monitored and approved for operation by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) created for this purpose. They have not declared that the Tarapur reactors in Maharashtra are functioning in an unsafe manner. Government is not aware of any organisation known as International Commission of Reactor Protection as an authentic body with expertise in this area. No individual opinion in this respect can be taken as the final word.

The Department of Atomic Energy had constituted a committee to examine the status of the plant. On the basis of these investigations, it has been decided that the plant could be operated for another 10-15 years. Regular surveillance and monitoring are carried out in order to ensure the safety of the reactor.

(c) and (d) The Radioactive Waste Management facility is managed by the Waste Management Division of BARC and Surveillance of this contained waste is monitored by the Health and Safety authorities to report to AERB. There is no adverse impact on the environment affecting human health.

Commencing of Koodankulam atomic power project

3576. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI S. MADHAVAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the cause for the delay in commencing construction works of the Koocjankulam Atomic Power Project in Tamil Nadu;

(b) what is the total outlay envisaged for the project;

(c) the amount spent thereon so far;

(d) by when the construction work is likely to be commenced; and

(e) by when the project is expected to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) In view of the uncertainties introduced on account of the recent political developments in the erstwhile USSR, the Inter-Governmental Agreement between the USSR and India signed in November, 1988 for establishing two reactors each with a capacity of 1000 MWe at Kun-

dankulam could not be implemented so

(b) A fresh assessment on the technical and commercial aspects is required to be carried out to arrive at the estimated outlay for the project.

(c) An amount of about Rs. 5.3 crores (Upto June 1992) has so far been spent on the project.

(d) and (e) The schedule for completion is uncertain due to the reasons given in (a) and (b).

Indo-Russian agreement in nuclear field

3577. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission had visited Russia in March-April this year;

(b) if so, whether he has brought to the notice of Government that the Russian Government has issued a notification saying "hereafter nuclear cooperation and supply of nuclear equipment would be subject to the country's accepting of full scale safeguards";

(c) whether negotiations held regarding Koodankulam project were conclusive; and

(d) what is the present position regarding the Indo-Russian Agreement of 1000 MWe VVERs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI . P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) had visited Russia in April, 1992.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) During the preliminary discussions initiated on the subject in Moscow, it was suggested that expert level delegations could initiate discussions to sort out various issues. Though it was agreed to receive a Russian delegation in this connection in September 1992, this visit did not materialise from the Russian side. While satisfactory progress was being made to implement the Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA), the developments in the erstwhile Soviet Union over the last two years have introduced a large element of uncertainty. Renewed responsibilities and conditions for financial aid need to be reaffirmed and assessed afresh in view of the changed circumstances.

Action against the drug companies for short supply and spurious drugs

@3578. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to un-favourable drug licensing policy, essential medicines are in short supply and spurious drugs are playing havoc with the lives of innocent people in the country; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far against the Drug Companies both Indian/foreign indulging in unfair means?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No instance of shortage or spurious drugs, due to licensing constraints, has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

©Previously Unstarred Question 2441, transferred from 9th December, 1992.